

Young African Entrepreneurs Return to Africa with \$1,000,000 to Invest in their Social Ventures

The U.S. African Development Foundation is providing the next generation of young African leaders with \$25,000 of seed capital to start or expand their social enterprises.



2015 USADF YALI Entrepreneurship Grant Winners

Washington, D.C.—August 2, 2015— Entrepreneurs from the Mandela Washington Fellowship, part of President Obama’s Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), will be returning home with \$1,000,000 in seed capital awarded by the U.S. African Development Foundation (USADF). The 40 winners will be using these funds to launch or grow their social venture or business in their home countries. These young leaders are already creating jobs, tackling business problems and social issues, and impacting thousands of Africans in their communities. On Sunday, August 2, the 40 winners were officially announced at an awards luncheon hosted by USADF and held at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

Shortly before the YALI Summit on August 3-5, the grants winners were notified they had just won \$25,000 in seed capital. Several YALI Fellows had been at Dartmouth College for the six-week executive education component of the Fellowship when they heard the news. Cynthia Ndubisi, founder of Kadosh Production Co. in Nigeria, said, “To me, receiving a USADF grant is like a step to achieving my dreams. The financing helps me bring to life a project that will have great impact in the lives of women in my community and help them put food on their

“These Entrepreneurship Grants put resources in the hands of Africa’s ‘Best and Brightest’ so that they can return home and put what they have learned during the Fellowship into action.”

Shari Berenbach,
President/CEO,
USADF

tables and money in their pockets.” Another YALI Fellow, Daisy Karimi of Strauss Energy in Kenya, said, “When I called my team at home to share the news of the grant, the first thing they said was, 'Oh my God, the kids will finally receive electricity in their school!’ It was at that moment that I realized how big an impact this grant is going to have on the lives of rural Kenyans.”

The YALI Mandela Washington Fellowship is empowering exceptional young people, ages 25-35, who are already leaders in their fields. For the class of 2015, 500 African leaders were competitively selected from over 30,000 applicants to receive advanced training at top U.S. academic institutions. The program is providing the opportunity for this next generation of leaders in civil society, business and government to come to the United States to develop their professional and leadership skills. The USADF YALI Entrepreneurship Grants are a tangible part of continuing this catalytic program in Africa through mentoring, training, networking and professional placements.

This \$1,000,000 in grant funding is part of USADF’s \$7.5 million commitment over three years to fund young African entrepreneurs’ who are launching and expanding their businesses and social ventures across Sub-Saharan Africa.

List of 2015 USADF YALI Entrepreneurship Grant Winners

Delivering Services

- Edith Massa Greene, Turquoise House of Style, Liberia
- Funmi Ilori, iRead Mobile Library, Nigeria
- Helen Duo, Mini Clinic, Liberia
- Lebohang Selloane, Visionary X-Rays, South Africa
- Marilyn Nguemo Chime, ZAATI Consulting, Cameroon
- Maykel Figueiredo da Costa, 24h Multisolution, Sao Tome
- Rosalyn Nduhiu, Mastermind-Africa Alliance, Kenya
- Stacey Brewer, Spark Schools, South Africa
- Yordanos Dessalegn, Coffee-Culture Coffee Shop, Ethiopia

Growing our Communities

- Abiodoun Koutchika, Heavy Company, Benin
 - Cynthia Ndubuisi, Kadosh Production Co., Nigeria
 - David Morfaw, Poult Vault Enterprise, Cameroon
 - Emmanuel Kweyunga, Keirere Green Africa Agency, Uganda
 - Haruna Ndahi, Hirkur Hyel Vocation, Nigeria
 - Kudakwashe Makuzwa, Anaya Investments, Zimbabwe
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- Majubere Maine, MIS Poultry Farm, South Africa
- Oladayo Buliameen, D-Marine & Business Networks, Nigeria
- Priscilla Bamfo, Shepherds' Mills, Ghana
- Sam Musariri, Meadow Hill - Village Processing, Zambia
- Steve Zita, J. Mokoto, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Investing in New Technologies

- Binta Balde, Prolog, Guinea
- Damilola Sobowale, Smids Animation Studios, Nigeria
- Farai Chizengeni, Utano Tech, Zimbabwe
- Felix Klutse, Business Day Digital, Ghana
- Frederico Da Silva, UX Information Technologies, Mozambique
- Ismael Mamoudou-Tanko, Tim Agro, Togo
- Lisema Masheane, Tracker Lesotho, Lesotho
- Mohammad Goolamally, Keep Moving Co. - 2Train 2Employ, Mauritius
- Raymond Magambo, Global Light Co. "Friendly Tickets", Tanzania
- Sam Kodo, Smart-Bag, Togo
- Tsonam Akpeloo, Techcom Visions eDu-Boost, Ghana

Creating a Greener Future

- Alex Bahati, VisionNet, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- Andrew Chikomba, Tomire Trading, Zimbabwe
- Atim Abdoulaye, 3ACE Energy & Trade, Chad
- Cosmos Shaduka, Renu Energy, Namibia
- Daisy Muthamia, Strauss Energy, Kenya
- Ethiopia Robi, Ecobike, Ethiopia
- Jean Bosco Nzeyimana, Habora Limited, Rwanda
- Miriam Kyasiimire, Kagera Safari, Uganda
- Washikala Malango, Alternative Energy Technology, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)



USADF impacts 1,300,000 people in underserved communities across Africa through an innovative economic development grants program. USADF supports African-originated solutions to generate jobs, increase incomes, and raise living standards, and is proud to partner with corporations and host country governments to build businesses and achieve sustainable results. www.usadf.gov